

Bucks County

DECEMBER ★ 1967 ★ 25¢

PANORAMA



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Bucks County **PANORAMA**

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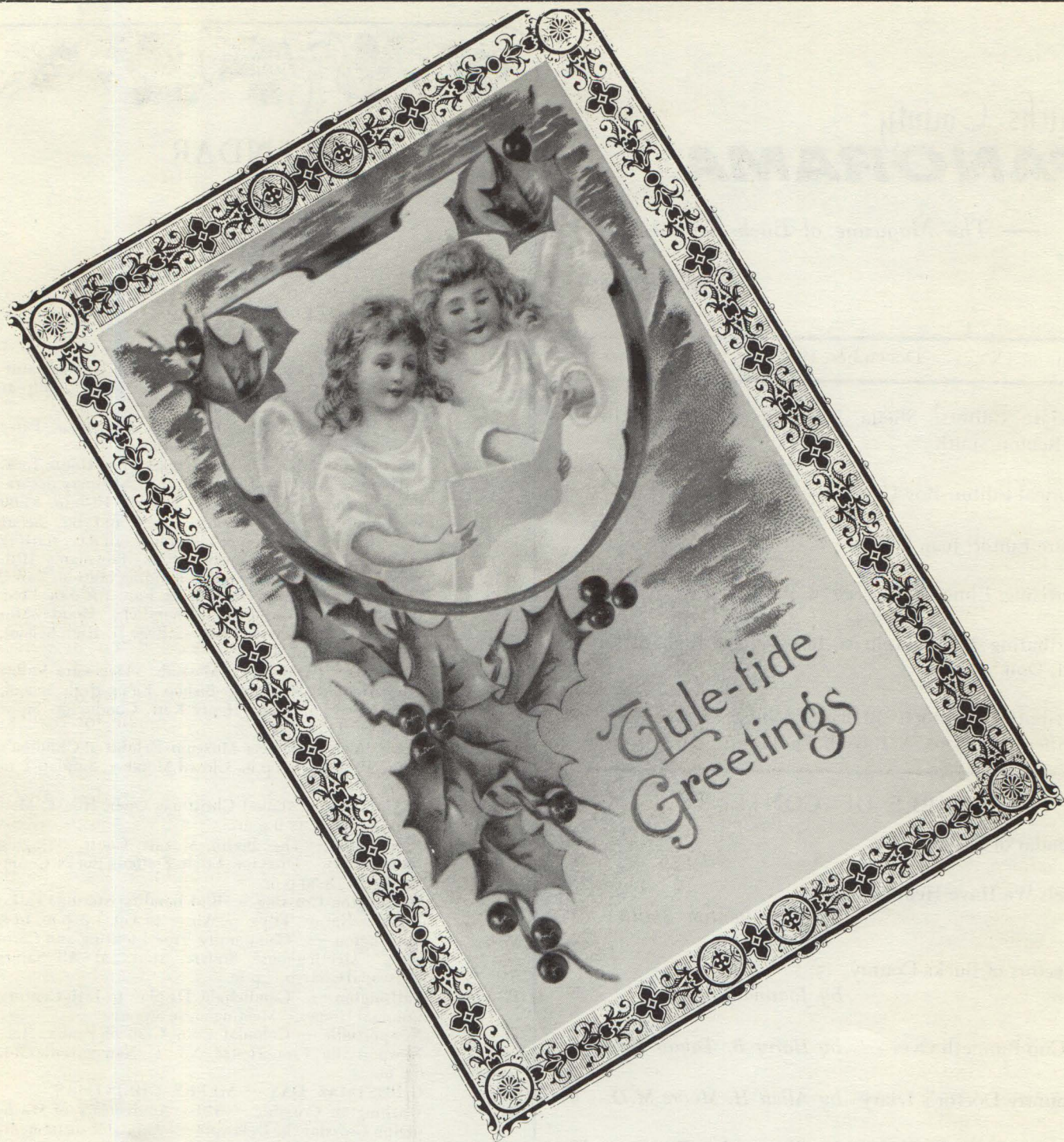
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

December, 1967

- thru 31 Washington Crossing — Narration and famous painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware," daily at 1/2 hour intervals, Memorial Building.
- thru 16 New Hope — Arts and Crafts for Christmas, Parry Barn, daily 1 to 5 p.m., except Sunday.
- 9 Newtown — 5th Annual Christmas Open House Tour. 8 Houses, featuring 18th Century Christmas decorations. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. — 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$3.00
- 9 Washington Crossing — Girl Scout and Boy Scout Merit Badges — Troop or individual, all day, starting at 9 a.m. Preserve Headquarters, Bowman's Hill.
- 9, 10 Washington Crossing — Bird Banding Station, Talks, "Christmas Shopping for Nature Fans," 3 p.m. Free.
- 10 Warminster — Warminster "Choraliers", Holiday Music, sacred and secular. Log College Jr. High School, Norristown Road, 4 p.m.
- 10 Levittown — Handel's "Messiah," Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, Bishop Egan High School, Wistar Road, 3 p.m. Henry Kerr, Conductor. Snow date Dec. 14, 8 p.m.
- 11-31 Doylestown — Mercer Museum Exhibit of Children's Toys, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.
- 13 Doylestown — Annual Christmas Open House, Mercer Museum, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 16 New Hope — The Berlin Mozart Choir, "Singing Ambassadors," Director Erich Steffens. Bucks County Playhouse, 8:30 p.m.
- 16, 17 Washington Crossing — Bird Banding Station, Talks, "Winter Nature Trips — Where to Go," 3 p.m. free.
- 17 Fallsington — "Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing," Meetinghouse Square, starts at All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 p.m.
- 17 to 24 Fallsington — "Candlelight Display in 18th Century Colonial Homes," Meetinghouse Square.
- 21 Newportville — Colonial Coin Club of Penna., Inc. Newportville Fire House No. 1, Newportville Rd. 8 p.m.
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY — MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 25 Washington Crossing — 191st Anniversary of Washington Crossing the Delaware — Annual Reenactment, St. John Terrell playing George Washington, Washington Crossing State Park, Memorial Building Mall, 2:30 p.m.
- 30, 31 Washington Crossing — Bird Banding Station, Talks, "1968, Year of Decision for Conservation," 3 p.m. Free.
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE — HAPPY NEW YEAR
- thru Jan 7 New Hope — Exhibit. Old Christmas Cards from countries all over the world. Barn 46, North Main Street.



"angels we have heard on high"

by Jane Renton Smith

The rich voices of the 375 members of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir blend in glorious harmony. Vested in white satin gowns and tuxedos, they give memorable concerts in auditoriums the world over, and their albums are cherished possessions of music lovers everywhere.

* * *

The thin, squeaky voices of 15 young members of a little neighborhood church blend in off-key vibrancy. Vested in ear-muffs, mittens, and scarves they give memorable carol concerts along the snowy streets of town. They have never cut a record, but their singing brings a very special warmth to all who hear it.

* * *



These two groups have much in common. They both bring to the Christmas season the intrinsic heritage of carol singing, adding nostalgia and richness to Christmastide. And both groups sing the very same carols with the same joy and earnestness that carolers have expressed for over 500 years!

The first Christmas carol was undoubtedly the "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" which the angels sang on that Holy Eve to herald Christ's birth. This refrain, commonly called The Angels' Hymn, was sung by Christians as early as 129 A.D. when Bishop Telesphorus in Rome had the people sing it on Christmas Eve. Today, we know it as the refrain in the lovely hymn, *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

St. Francis of Assisi is universally proclaimed the father of Christmas carols, because in 1223, in the little town of Greccio, he and a group of brown-robed Brothers created the first creche, using townspeople and live animals, and dramatized the production with their singing of carols.

During the Middle Ages, carol singing became part of Miracle and Mystery Plays, and after the performances the carolers would stroll up and down the streets still singing. This led to the wandering minstrels and strolling troubadours of England, where these serenaders were called "Waits." And this led, eventually, to the little band of children singing on a frosty night outside our homes.

But it wasn't always so. There actually was a time in history when carol singing was frowned upon, opposed, and even banned. Puritanism in the 17th century brought stern opposition to carols, and in 1645, in England, Cromwell's Parliament abolished Christmas observance — a ban which held for 12 years.

In this country a Connecticut law once banned Christmas celebration, and forbade the "reading of Common Prayer, keeping Christmas or saints' days, making minced pies, dancing, playing cards or performing on any instrument, except the drums, trumpet and Jew's harp."

The traditional Christmas music survived, however, and is as much a part of the season as it was in earlier centuries. And many of the carols we sing today are the very same ones that resounded so gloriously hundreds of years ago.

Some of the earliest carols of the 15th century were preserved for us in manuscripts, or were handed down from generation to generation as folk music and by word

of mouth tradition. Later, in England, "broad sheets" were printed and distributed each year and some of the oldest and loveliest carols have come down to us in this manner.

The Holly and the Ivy, *Joy to the World*, and *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks* all date from the early 1700s. *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, written in 1739 by Charles Wesley (who wrote over 6,000 hymns) had to wait over one hundred years until in 1840 it was finally paired with Mendelssohn's fine melody to become one of the most beloved of all Christmas carols.

Tales of how some of the carols came to be written are truly Christmas stories themselves, and the most delightful is the creation of *Silent Night*, *Holy Night*.

Father Josef Mohr was depressed when he realized that mice had eaten away at the bellows of his little church organ. And with Christmas just two days away, it looked as if there would be no music for the Mass on Christmas Eve.

That night in 1818, Father Mohr stood on a hill overlooking the remote Bavarian town of Arnsdorf, Austria. It was a silent, starlit night — all was calm; all was bright. The lovely phrases filtered through his thoughts and he hurried home to write them down. When he was finished, and pleased, he took the verses to Franz Gruber, his schoolmaster and organist, and asked him to write the music. Franz Gruber was deeply moved by the simplicity and beauty of his friend's poem, and set himself to the task. Soon the melody came to him, like an angels' chorus, and, in time for the Christmas Eve Mass, the carol was completed. That night when the townspeople crowded into the small parish church, the broken organ was silent. But there was music. Father Mohr sang and Franz Gruber accompanied on his guitar and *Silent Night*, *Holy Night* was born that night in Arnsdorf, Austria.

But it was just a tiny mountain village, and it's quite possible the carol would never have been heard beyond that ring of mountains if it hadn't been for the broken organ. When the repairman came to fix the bellows, he heard their new hymn, memorized it, and took it back with him across the mountains. There a group of Tyrolean singers — the Strasser sisters — heard it and were so enchanted that it became a permanent number in their repertoire. They carried it with them on their concert tours all across Europe, and Father Mohr's words and Franz Gruber's music found their way indelibly into the traditional music of Christmas and into the hearts of all who hear or sing them.

Fifth of a Series

by Joanna Pogson

COLLECTORS OF BUCKS COUNTY

“...And the thoughts of youth
are long, long thoughts.”

Eugene Dovidio, of Cornwells Heights, Bucks County, is a “Trader.” He collects patches. His is the most complete collection in the country — four more will finish it.

“It’s just like stamp or coin collecting,” says the dark-haired, brown-eyed Dovidio. “And it can run into nearly the same kind of money. Some of these patches could sell for \$150; I’ve worked as long as three years just to get one.”

Dovidio is a 42-year-old scoutmaster for Troop 17, Andalusia, which is sponsored by Holy Redeemer Episcopal Church. To Boy Scouts patches represent an ordeal and have to be earned. To Dovidio, as well as some 2000 other collectors in the country, they also form a colorful, thought-provoking hobby.

Dovidio’s collection is under glass in thirty wooden-edged frames. And it is an impressive array of order and quantity.

“There are 562 lodges in the country,” he says. “The trick is to get a patch from each lodge, as well as the different issues, if you can. And this is no mean trick! I think the Order is 52 years old — and no one has been able to get a complete collection yet. . . .”

What makes it so difficult? We shall see.

“I’ve been in scouting twenty-two years,” says Dovidio. And seated opposite him one is **hard-put to remain** impassive to his enthusiasm. “My two sons, ages 18 and 16, and I are Eagle Scouts (Dovidio has accomplished Brotherhood membership in his Order — the second of three levels). If my youngest boy, age 13, makes it, I believe it’ll be the first time, as far as I can find out, that there have been four Eagle Scouts in one family. First time in the country, I mean. An Eagle Scout,” he adds by way of explanation, “is the highest award you can hold in scouting.”

Besides his three sons, Dovidio has a ten-year-old daughter and a married daughter who, two years ago, presented him with a grandson (another contender?).

Dovidio’s collection is an outgrowth of his heartfelt interest in scouting. A member of the Order of the Arrow, the beginnings of which go back to Treasure Island in the summer of 1915, he says he “likes what the Order stands for — cheerful service to fellowman.

“When you see a meeting of these boys and men,” he says, half an octave quieter, “it seems you’re looking at a different generation; everybody seems so gentle and kind; and you wonder why they can’t be like that all the time.

“The atmosphere around a campfire is different,” he continues. “It’s inspiring; it seems so clean; it makes you look ahead and think big thoughts.”

Dovidio started out as a farm boy at St. Francis Industrial School, Eddington. After a 5-year hitch in the Navy as electrician-mate, he returned to the county and St. Elizabeth’s Convent, Cornwells Heights, where he was employed as an electrician. And he’s been there ever since — “28 years May 26,” he offers.

He already had several patches on hand when, one day, six years ago, he attended a Philadelphia camp-o-ree and ran into a World War II buddy who had served with him on the USS Forest. Both turned out to be members of the Order of the Arrow — but in different lodges.

“We got the idea of exchanging patches. I guess I was on my way then.”

A patch has woven in colored thread the scenery of an area, an arrow, the letters WWW (Brotherhood), lodge number, name and totem.

And included in Dovidio’s collection are white ceremonial sashes — each woven with a red arrow that signifies the wearer as one who has spiritually, morally and physically met rigid requirements. These colorful decorations are standard editions to the regular scout uniform.

Dovidio discovered the patches were hard to come by.

“After I’d been doing it a while, I found I could get patches at jamborees, camp-o-rees, conferences, gatherings — wherever I might run into another “Trader;” or someone who wanted his lodge patch included in a collection; or someone who wanted to sell his collection.”

But it wasn’t all that easy, and still isn’t. Most patches are “restricted to lodge.” They are not permitted to be given to anyone not a member of the particular lodge. Those who do surrender a patch run the risk of council censure: “I’ve never heard of anyone being thrown out. But many lodges put numbers on their patches besides the lodge number and this number is recorded. If the patch turns up outside of lodge, they know who traded whom. . . .”

But getting started was the problem. And strangely enough, it was the nuns at St. Elizabeth’s Convent who “broke the ice.” Because of widespread mission work, they were able to put Dovidio in touch with many he would have had no recourse to otherwise.

“The nuns have helped me a lot. They were as interested as I was, once I explained what I was doing.”

Sister Mary Evangelist, S.B.S., helped Dovidio extensively. A retired English teacher and, presently a freelance writer who appears in the *Bulletin* and the *Catholic Press*, Sister is missioned at St. Michael's Convent, Red Lion Road and Knights Road.

"Gene had been working on the patches about a year," recalls Sister, who has ingested a rich background of Indian life and lore through her work on the reservations.

"He asked me to write some letters for him; he had started a patch collection but needed more people to know about it and, since he felt he couldn't write a good letter, asked me if I would."

Asked what her reaction was, Sister smiles. "All I said was 'Gene, what in heaven's name are patches?'"

"He explained the project and I agreed to become temporary secretary for Troop 17 — discovering soon after that I'd taken on a full-time job. But, do you know, I began a social correspondence of my own with many of the people."

Which points up a fact Dovidio emphasizes.

"Yes," he says, "there's a lot of competition between collectors. But every trade is done on a friendly basis. We all have a common interest in scouting; we don't just 'take the patch,' we trade and make new friends in the bargain. . . ."

Most collectors attempt one patch per lodge. But Dovidio goes one step further. He tries to get as many issues as he can of a patch.

"Issues are different variations of a patch. I have 1800 issues — there must be a thousand I don't have. The older ones are hard to get." Some lodges put out as few as two issues per patch; others may put out fifteen.

"In the Order of the Arrow," says Dovidio, "the boys have all the say in running things. The men act as advisors. The boys elect new rules and new members. And if they want a patch changed, they suggest the change; it's voted on and accepted or rejected. If accepted a new issue is made."

Issues might include a change of color, or design; the boys might prefer a round patch; or arrow-head; or a diamond shape.

The Order of the Arrow is a campers honor society in the boy scout movement. It is somewhat rigid and based on legends and traditions of the Indians.

Each lodge has its own totem, or symbol ("and these are never changed," says Dovidio). This might be an animal, an Eagle head, a thunderbird (the sign of good omen) or an Indian head.

"Bucks County is Lodge 33," and Dovidio points to a patch. "The symbol is ajapeu, meaning buck.

"This one," and he points to a patch from Japan, "our armed forces in Japan have their own Order of the Arrow lodges; here's one from Puerto Rico. You have about 8 lodges out of the country that have their Order of the Arrow. The American Boy Scouts are the only ones that have the Order.

"In order for a boy to become a member, he has to have a required number of days camping; he has to

live up to the scout oath and laws; and has to be elected by the boys."

There are three steps that may be taken within the Order: Ordeal, Brotherhood and Vigil Honor. Most scoutmasters, to work as much with their troops as possible, remain some time at the second.

"The Order is not a *secret* society," emphasizes Dovidio. "But the boys like to maintain an air of mystery concerning the meetings and ceremonies. When a boy is put up for Ordeal, he isn't even told what it will be. None of the boys want to be told; they want it to be a surprise. But an example might be sleeping apart, silence, work and scant food. The men have Ordeals to pass as well. The Indians were able to get through; and the boys and men, to be members, must do as well. If they do, they are 'walked to the ceremonies' by their peers; all are dressed in authentic costumes that some make themselves; the tom-toms beat, dances begin — and did you know that each step of an Indian dance means something; it is a language and the dancers are talking to those watching. The ceremonies are beautiful, really fascinating."

Dovidio has displayed his collection at libraries, schools, and gatherings. One of the most impressive of these exhibits took place in October of 1966. It was his first public exhibit — at the Willow Grove Naval Air Force Base.

Recalls Dovidio, "A Navy Lieutenant, a pilot, came up to me and said, 'You know, you don't have my patch in your collection.'"

"I've tried getting that one," Dovidio recalls saying. "But it's so restricted I can't get hold of it."

"He didn't want his lodge left out. He was no longer active in it, he said, and he had a patch he wasn't using. A couple months later I received a letter from him — along with the patch."

The patch in question Dovidio now points to — from Kinosh, Wisconsin, lodge 153.

Again, stopping at a rest center on the return trip last year from a camping stay at Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico, the world's largest boys' camp, where Dovidio and 80 boys stayed one month, Dovidio recalls talking to a Nebraska-ite who was interested in scouting.

"And when I got home, I found a letter from him, and a patch with it. I was very happy about it."

Dovidio expects to do more exhibiting in the future, and says, "I enjoy it because the patches show some, who might not know, a little about what scouting is."

The patches still needed by Dovidio are "hard ones to get," he says: Santa Barbara, California, lodge 90; Hawaii, lodge 454; Massachusetts, lodge 539; and one lodge patch that was merged with lodge 89 — "I need the patch that existed before the merger took place," he says with a never-say-die smile.

"And what scouting is" may well be summed up by words which accompany an Ordeal in the Order of the Arrow: "Let us catch the higher vision, Let us find the greater beauty, In the life of cheerful service."

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

by Harry B. Taylor, M.D.

LITTLE GIRLS

It used to be the practice in China for families to get rid of surplus girl babies, because they were a drain on the family finances and, if brought up, they required a dowry to be married into another family. In many places there were baby towers in which new-born girls were exposed. In other places there were institutions that would receive girl babies and care for them. This was the case in Anking. At the front gate of this institution there was a little cupboard with sliding doors inside and outside. The mother put her baby in the cupboard, shutting both doors. She then rang a bell and left. An attendant came, opened the inside door and took the baby in. Often the mother later applied to the institution to be hired as a wet nurse to feed her baby. Our hospital did the medical work for this institution for many years.

Formerly only the exceptional girls of well-to-do families were educated, usually by private tutor. The nursing school of our hospital was the first school for girls in Anking, a city of 100,000, and the capital of Anhwei Province. It was begun in 1907, when our new hospital was opened. Shortly thereafter, St. Agnes School was begun.

Now the exposure of girl babies has ceased, because girls go to government schools and find jobs, thus helping to support the family.

Shortly after our hospital opened in 1907, a servant rushed to Miss Ogden, our head nurse, to tell her that a new-born baby had been put in a cabbage patch near the hospital. Miss Ogden ran, picked up the baby and brought her into the hospital. She was baptized and given the name Mei Li (Beautiful Plum) and was cared for in the hospital where she became the pet of the nurses. Miss Ogden adopted her and she was educated in our schools. Later Mei Li married a fine young Christian man who had a job in the Chinese Post Office, and they have three children, two girls and a boy. We told them good-bye when we left Anking in 1951.

One wintry morning many years ago, the hospital catechist came hurrying back from the street. He had been passing along and saw a crowd around something on the pavement. This was a little slave girl, beaten and thrown out by her mistress. He asked if he might bring her into the hospital. When she was brought in we saw that she had sores and bruises from numerous beatings. She had

been sold by her parents when she was five or six years old during a time of famine. Her mistress had beaten her repeatedly and she thought we were going to beat her too. We soon had the wounds dressed, fed her, made her warm, and allayed her fears.

She had no name, having been called nothing but Ya Teo (slave) after she was sold. The catechist who brought her into the hospital gave her the name Lai An (Peace Has Come). The church staff took over her care and she was sent to St. Agnes School. Alas, she was not very bright and became quite a problem. After some years a very nice boy wished to marry her, but she would have none of him. Later on she was married to a blind organist and they had two daughters. The older studied nursing at our hospital and is a great help to her family.

Lai An continued to be a problem. I was her link with the past and she called me her father and Alma her mother. Whenever she needed anything she would come to us and make her wants known! She said a tearful good-bye to us in 1951.

All Chinese men married as soon as possible to have descendants and they wondered out loud why I was unmarried! On one occasion a visiting official said to me, "I will be glad to get you a wife." My old teacher who was present intervened, "He does not want a Chinese wife, they are not clean enough." (He knew of our daily baths.) But a few days later, he also offered to get a wife for me! I was in China twelve years before being married to Alma Booth, a girl from Petersburg, a city eighty miles from my home of Norfolk!



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christmas



by Allen H. Moore, M.D.

In the South, the traditional begging formula for Christmas morning is "Christmas gift!" The one who says it first wins a present or treat from the other. How well do I remember, as a child, in Washington, North Carolina, the old saying at Christmas. The colored girl who had been with us for many years — Melissa, I believe her name was — arrived at our home early on Christmas morning. The moment the door was opened to let her in, she quickly yelled, "Christmas gift!" She was the winner, of course, and in due time was well rewarded not only for her trigger quick "Christmas gift" but for her affection, loyalty, good nature, and constancy. Melissa was part and parcel of the Moore household. It was first from this lovable girl that we learned many things of interest to us — all about ghosts, the behavior of animals on Christmas Eve, Old Christmas, the makings of persimmon beer, "coonah" songs, and many others long forgotten.

To Puritan New England, down to at least the middle of the seventeenth century, anything and everything connected with Christmas was anathema — as popish, heathenish, and corrupt. But not so in the Anglican South, with it Cavalier, Scotch-Irish, German, Negro — along with the Dutch of New York and the Moravians of Pennsylvania, who fostered and kept alive the traditions and spirit of Merry Christmas.

"Christmas without holiday," went a plantation saying, "is like a candle without a wick." And how far that little candle threw its beams into former slave days with happy reminiscences of favors, feasting, and frolicking — gifts of new shoes, hats and dresses; passes for visits to loved ones separated by bondage; candy pullings and dances; and plenty of roast pig, fowl, game, yams, plum pudding, and liquor.

Allen H. Moore, M.D.

We are very pleased to present, this month, one of the most delightful chapters from Dr. Allen H. Moore's book, *Mustard Plasters and Printer's Ink*. Dr. Moore, for many years a beloved country doctor in the Doylestown area, is now a resident of his native North Carolina.

Traditionally the slaves could have Christmas as long as the big back log (successor of the English yule log) burned in the fireplace. So, while other Christmas preparations might begin after Thanksgiving, the first task of the New Year was often the selection of the back log, preferably a cypress, "the biggest, knottiest, most indestructible cypress tree that can be found." After it had been cut down and the butt end of the trunk measured to the length of the fireplace, the log was hauled down to the river and anchored there so as to become thoroughly waterlogged during the next twelve months.

At Buchoi plantation, on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, according to Rebecca Cameron, the slaves chanted part of a "coonah" song as they ceremoniously chopped down the cypress tree:

*Christmas comes but once a year,
He rang du range!
Let everybody have a share,
He rang du range!*

"Coonah" songs were sung by the John Kuners — Negro masqueraders who, down to 1910 or later, added an African and West Indian touch to the southern folk Christmas in the coastal towns and plantations of Georgia and the Carolinas.

The South has its firecrackers for Christmas instead of on the Fourth of July. As a result, here the word "Christmas" has come to mean not only the day celebrated but anything used or given in celebration, especially firecrackers and whiskey. Usually fired by the second, the noisemakers fire anvils by igniting powder packed into the holes of an anvil with another anvil on top. They also explode sticks of dynamite and shoot rifles, breech-loading shotguns aimlessly and recklessly into the air until recently in Jackson, in "Bloody Breathitt" County, Kentucky, men had to close their stores at four o'clock on Christmas Eve afternoon, because as the blue haze of gunsmoke began to settle over the town, "it was worth a man's life" to continue doing business.

The colonial custom of firing off guns the first thing on Christmas morning was just another way of saying, "Good morning, neighbor. Merry Christmas to you." The neighbor was not, of course, across the street or next door to you, but perhaps a mile or two down the road or across the meadow.

(continued on page 22)



The earth near this furnace is red powder: all that is left to recall the energy it once produced in 1727.

THE ROAD TO DURHAM MILL

by Christopher Brooks

The stagecoach sped through the woods, its two passengers shuddering with the winter cold. Young George Taylor peered out the open window of the coach at the white wilderness before him. The snow-covered woodlands, dotted with log houses and farms, seemed almost

lifeless and far unlike the rolling green hills of his native Ireland. It had only been a short time since his arrival in America and he had bound himself to Mr. Savage. Now they were on their way to Durham Furnace where the young man would find work.

They stopped for a meal at the Three Tuns Inn near the corner of Durham and Easton Roads. As they ate, the wiser, older man told young Taylor about the early mining settlement known as Durham Village. On March 4, 1727, a partnership was agreed upon by twelve men who had formed the Durham Iron Company one year before at the far end of Upper Bucks County. Among these were such prominent historical figures as Jeremiah Langhorne, Chief Justice of the Province, and James Logan, William Penn's secretary in the New World. None of the dozen men survived the fifty-one year partnership.

Mr. Savage wisely advised the young man. "On the road to Durham Mill," he said, "you must find a path that will lead to success. You won't see it, but it will be there... follow it." Little did young Taylor know how successful and well known he would become.

George Taylor married Savage's widow in 1739, a year after Savage's death. He became a lessee of the Durham Iron Works in 1755 at which time the furnace manufactured cannon shot for the Provincial government in the French and Indian War. In fact, Durham Furnace also produced cannonballs for the Continental Army under Taylor's supervision and these were well put to use in December, 1776, at the Battle of Trenton. There are early records which tell us that his first shipment, dated August 25, 1775, is the first on record for the iron works industries of Pennsylvania.

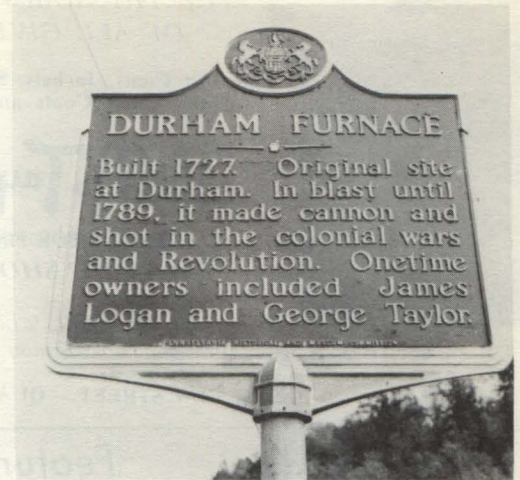
The original Durham Furnace or Durham Mill, as the area has come to be called, made its last blast on November 18, 1819. The furnace changed hands several times during its life and new additions were always being put up or old structures torn down. George Taylor went on to become a Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

A grist mill was built on the site of the furnace building. And an English walnut tree stands beside the entrance to the 1727 mine which was rebuilt in 1932. There is even part of an old furnace still in existence on a weed-choked hill in Durham. Surely these are all relics of a historic industry, once very important in this sector of Bucks County.

The proposed widening of Route 611 may possibly affect the Durham Mill area and hence endanger some of its fine historical assets.

Who knows, perhaps Bucks Countians of 300 years from now will look upon "Fairless-on-the-Delaware" as an outmoded, ancient steel mill of an age long past. Or like Durham Mill, perhaps it will leave an indelible mark on Bucks County's iron industry. Durham Mill is more than just "a place with a past." Durham Mill is time standing still.

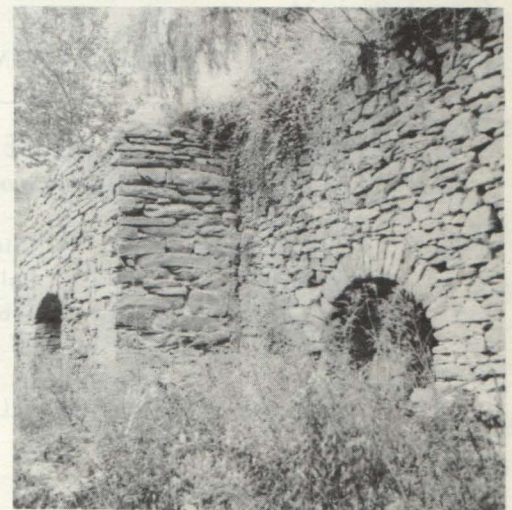
photographs by the author



Historical marker denoting iron industry of Upper Bucks.



A grist mill rose from the ruins of Durham Iron Works.



View of the old Durham Furnace structure on a weed-choked hill in the village of Durham.



FOR THE WARMEST GIFT
OF ALL GIVE HER

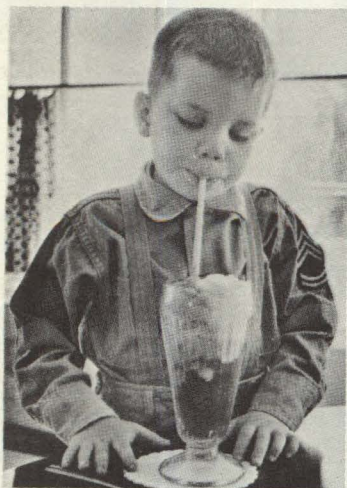
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CHRISTMAS PLANTS OF ALL KINDS

E. O. SHADDINGER
Plumsteadville, Penna.

766-8347



Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas

*At This Holiday-Time and During the Coming Year,
May You Have an Abundance of Health, Happiness
and Lasting Friendships*

INTRODUCING the successful candidates at the November 7th municipal election in Bucks County who will take over January 1, 1968:

Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, term, 10 years, salary, \$30,000: John Justus Bodley, 50, Doylestown; Isaac S. Garb, 37, Buckingham, endorsed by both parties.

County Commissioners, term, four years, salary, \$12,000: Joseph O. Canby, 66, Langhorne, retired dairy farmer; Charles M. Meredith, 3rd, 32, Quakertown, newspaper management; Walter S. Farley, Jr., 40, Levittown, electrical engineer; all incumbents.

Register of Wills, term, four years, salary, \$10,900 plus commission: Pasquale M. Pinciotti, 39, Warminster, construction management.

County Treasurer, term, four years, salary, \$11,000: Richard M. Lawrence, 32, Holland, C.P.A.

Clerk of Quarter Sessions Court, term, four years, salary, \$11,000: Mrs. Anne L. Orazi, 39, Morrisville, former first deputy.

Coroner, term, four years, salary, \$7,500: Dr. Samuel B. Willard, 52, Doylestown RD 1, practicing physician and incumbent coroner.

County Surveyor, term, four years, salary, fee basis: George R. Nevells, 42, Perkasi RR 2, land surveyor.

* * *

OLD GRAND JURY RECORDS: A protest was made against Sunday baseball playing in Bucks County in the report of the May Sessions, 1904, and the late Judge Mahlon H. Stout told the jurors that he did not think it was serious enough to warrant an indictment. . . A.R. Trumbower, foreman of that Grand Jury urged that steps be taken to prohibit Sunday baseball especially at Parkland Park, near Langhorne station. . . The Grand Jury for the January Sessions, 1901, reported that "we view with a great degree of satisfaction the decrease of crime within our county and believe that the strict and impartial administration of the law in the various branches of our judicial administration is having a salutary effect." (The grand jury foreman was Arthur Chapman). . . At the September Sessions, 1903 Grand Jury with Harman Yerkes on the bench and M. F. Achey as foreman of the jury, it was reported "we have visited the Court House and find everything in proper condition, but recommend several slates be replaced on the Court House roof that are now wanting."

THE LATE Judge Stout, addressing the November, 1904 Sessions Grand Jury, called attention to the fact that there is considerable drunkenness upon the streets of Doylestown and directed that the law be strictly enforced. . . "It is evident that the liquor was sold to the drunken men at the licensed houses in the borough and if the condition is continued, the proprietors may wake up some morning and find there are fewer licensed places in Doylestown than at present," the judge added.

* * *

A GROWING DANGER: An alarming increase in the number of deaths from motorcycle accidents is causing concern among physicians, traffic experts and safety officials as well as the general public. I have before me the report of a study that shows that 1,580 persons were killed in motorcycle accidents in 1965, more than 40 percent increase over 1964. The 1967 "killing" will be still more ghastly. The study shows that as many as 50 percent of those involved in motorcycle accidents were under 20 years of age.

* * *

MISTAKEN IDENTITY: Accompanying Bucks County Deputy Sheriff Harold (Dink) Dando to the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia recently, with a prisoner, we were seated in the receiving room of the "pen" when a well-dressed, good-looking gentleman, seated next to us, looked over and said, "so you're from Bucks County. . . how is my friend District Attorney Ward Clark. . . don't you think he will be a judge some day?" The conversation continued for a few minutes, when Sheriff Dando asked our unidentified conversationalist, "Are you a lawyer here in Philadelphia?" Then came the surprise answer: "No, my friends, I am the notorious SIDNEY BROOKS!" Master criminal Brooks was await-

(continued on page 24)



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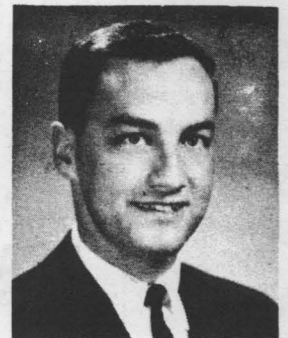
640 North Main Street, Doylestown 348-8116



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Any Angel
She'll love flowers
for Christmas!!



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The gift of a Bible is one that expresses more than the sentiments of the holiday. It is a lasting gift that will be appreciated by the recipient. On your list, there is someone who would like to receive a Bible. On your list is someone who needs a Bible.

Order Yours Now
GRAYBILL'S
Book & Stationery
Store
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DOYLESTOWN

Bucks County Woodcrafters

invite you to visit their
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THOUGHTFUL GIFT



BOOKS

BOOKS MAKE WONDERFUL GIFTS

America and Americans

John Steinbeck

The Christmas Story

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Encyclopedia of the American Revolution

Boatner

Other suggestions for *all* interests!

The Library BOOK SHOP

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FLOWER SHOP

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Between Friends



by Sheila Broderick

December, one of the loveliest months of the whole year. A time to turn our thoughts to sharing, be it by a gift or just a few words to an old friend on a card. Speaking of cards, don't fail to take the family to the Barn next to the Abby Shop right in New Hope. Here is one of the largest collections of both modern and antique Christmas cards ever assembled under one roof. Those of you who have come to this country from other distant shores will be delighted at having the chance to show your children cards from the old country, for here, every country is represented as well as every year.

Time of dropping by need be no problem — for as Pete (the proprietor) says, "We are up early at the Barn, and if you will just knock at the door, we'll come right down and let you in" — and he means just that! Both Pete and his charming wife just brim over with enthusiasm about their unusual collection. It was their daughter who first started putting this hobby together, a hobby which was to spur her enthusiasm so much that she went on to major in art. Pete says, "our soldier son, not to be outdone by his sister, has a collection of his own — cards of Santa traveling in planes, rockets, space ships, subs, buses, trains and any other mode of travel except the old sleigh!"

I'm betting that one hour with these warm, friendly people and their wonderful cards, and you'll be hurrying home to await the arrival of your first card to start your collection.

* * *

While on the subject of gift giving and card receiving — I would like to take this opportunity to thank those gals who hand out gifts all year. Welcome Wagon Hostesses.

There are over 6,000 housewives and mothers working in this form of second career. They call on newcomers, newly engaged, and new parents, bringing their congratulations of business sponsors and helpful information about community civic, religious, cultural and social programs. The typical hostess looks after her own home, husband and family. When friend husband leaves for work and the children have caught their orange colored chariot, her business day begins. We, here at Panorama, would like to wish all of those wonderful gals a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

Unfortunately, this time of year also has its bad points. Snow. "Oh, but it's lovely!" you say. True, but also very dangerous to those who would rush at it with a shovel — warns the Heart Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Each fall, as the first heavy snow clouds sweep across the colder climates, hundreds of reports start coming in of men succumbing to heart attacks from overexertion due to snow shoveling.

Consider the Shovel!

Since the out-of-shape man and his shovel are soon parted — by exhaustion if not by a more serious heart attack — try following these rules:

If a man is overweight and out of shape, he should see a doctor before winter snows arrive, even if he has no symptoms of ill health.

If he has a history of heart disease, it is imperative that he see a doctor before touching a shovel to that mushy white stuff.

Shoveling should be done before eating, or at least two hours afterwards. Always avoid undue exertion immediately after meals.

Take an occasional break. Even the healthy man can push himself to the point of harm.

Use all your muscles — back and legs — not just the arms to lift and throw the snow. Remember, snow is heavier when wet.

Don't drink or smoke. The former may very well give you a false lift and lead to overexertion. Smoking and cold constrict blood vessels. In combination, both of these can be very dangerous during heavy unaccustomed labors.

Wear warm, light clothing. Underdressing may lead to chill. Too much clothing may lead to overheating — both dangers.

If a man has any doubts about shoveling snow, HE SHOULDN'T. But then, neither should he get HIS WIFE TO DO IT! She may get more exercise than he doing the housework, but shoveling the snow will probably be too arduous for her. Come on folks...HIRE A BOY or a SNOW PLOW — PLEASE!

By the way. Did you know that there is a pamphlet that gives you all the facts on avoiding heart attacks? It's free, and it's called "Why Risk Heart Attack." For a copy call or write the Heart Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 318 South 19th Street, Phila, Pa., PENNYPACKER 5-3865, today.

* * *

Lynn C. Gregerson, wife of Dr. James O. Gregerson, Radiologist at Lower Bucks County Hospital, and long-time resident of Levittown, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Bucks County Psychiatric Center for a 3-year term. As a board member, Mrs. Gregerson will participate in decisions affecting the Psychiatric clinics in Doylestown and Penndel.

* * *

(continued on page 18)



for Christmas . . .

. . . why not come in soon to see our distinguished collection of lovely furs . . . it will be a pleasure to welcome you at . . .

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Quality is not expensive — it's priceless
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Old Christmas cards from countries all over the World. How and when it all began. Their brilliant artistry, color and traditions that have become a universal custom of the season.

How Santa Claus has changed over the years.

Old "turn of the Century" ornaments on a large Christmas tree, in all their splendor.

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Next to the Abbey Shop.

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different music**Memorable Moments in Music**The all-time greats from Rudy Vallee to
Nat King Cole, brought back at 10 A.M.,
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STEREO HOUR**Two Hours of Beautiful Stereo Music
Every day 9:00 — 11:00 P.M. plus
special 5-minute information features

9:00 P.M. Public Affairs News

9:30 P.M. Calendar

10:00 P.M. Financial Page

10:30 P.M. Man-of-the-Hour

WTOA + NEWS**Advise & Dissent — Sunday 7:30 — 9:00 P.M.**
Round-the-Clock News capsules**WTOA + SPORTS**Princeton and Eagles Football
High school Football
Other important sports events**WTOA + STEREO****97.5****Trenton, N. J.****Affiliated with WHWH 1350, Princeton, N.J.**
both stations owned and operated by
The Nassau Broadcasting Company*(continued from page 17)*

We received a very interesting letter from Captain Nicholas Brango, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer, Willow Grove, Naval Air Station.

He stated that many civic-minded citizens wanted to know how they should go about sending gifts to our Armed Forces in Southeast Asia. Obviously the Navy couldn't possibly answer all of the inquiries they received. So he pointed out that there was a pamphlet prepared by the Department of Defense that should be used as a guide in mailing gifts to Vietnam.

Under the heading *Guidelines to Support U.S. Service Personnel*, this may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C. 20301.

* * *

Wheels for Welfare needs volunteer drivers. Wheels for Welfare, Inc., which provides free transportation service for patients who have no other means of keeping medical appointments, is in dire need of volunteer drivers. Those wishing to help should call LO 8-4236.

Many local and national dignitaries were on hand a few weeks ago when the Bucks County Council, Boy Scouts of America broke ground for the new \$12,000 Scouting Service Center. Held on Green Street, the building site lies next to the Mercer Museum. Flag-bearing Scouts and Scouters from every corner of Bucks County gathered, making a gay splash of color against the grey stone of the old landmark. Very moving indeed, was the moment when the strains of *God Bless America* floated out on the crisp morning air, and the American flag rose high over the crowd, to fly for the first time over the site. The Honorable Edward G. Biester spoke briefly, emphasizing the need for Scout training in the character development of America's youth.

There followed a group rededication to the ideals of the Scout oath and law.

Dedication of the site in prayer was lead by the Rev. Rowland Carlson, pastor of the Doylestown Methodist Church. May we extend to the Boy Scouts of Bucks County good wishes and success.

* * *

Anyone who has had an ostomy operation will be interested in this item.

Surgeons who have been in contact with patients who have had such an operation, know only too well the mental anxiety that obsesses these people. They know too, that people who have experienced the trial and error of use, method of care, and how to live with this situation could be very helpful to those facing this operation or having just had it. If only there could be a way of bringing all of these people who are in the same boat together.

Now there is just such a way. Meetings of the Ostomy Association are held the third Monday of the month, every other month, at the Swartzlander Building, 43 South Main Street, Doylestown. Attendance averages about 35

(continued on page 24)



BOOKS IN REVIEW

A NEW CATECHISM. Herder and Herder. \$6.00.

Everyone else seems to have reviewed this book; we can't ignore it either. It has captured the imagination of religious people of every denominational persuasion. When Pope John XXIII "opened the windows of the Vatican" by calling the Council, he gave promise that the vast Roman Church would change its time-worn posture to face the modern world with a new image reflecting the essentials of the ancient faith but freed from the cosmetics of Victorianism.

But inside and outside that Church the bright hopes of Vatican II seemed long in being realized. The administrative machinery ground out the new documents, but, apart from a handful of the new breed in the hierarchy, the changes were superficial, internal, and about as up-to-date as a rumble seat.

One area where the Church seemed most responsive to the spirit of John XXIII and Vatican II was in the Low Countries. We heard the distant voices of the Dutch — mostly in press stories which said they were being restrained by Rome from introducing further novelties.

Now one major fruit of the pioneering of Continental theologians is available in this New "Dutch" Catechism. First of all it isn't a catechism in the usual

sense — no question-and-answer format, but an adult presentation of a reasonable faith. Starting with human experience, it reads like a narrative. Scripture translation is from the Revised Standard Version. Reflecting on man and his search for truth, it deals not only with a "Catholic" God, but also looks at other great systems of belief — Hindu, Buddhism, Islam, humanism, and even Marxism.

While some have criticized its undogmatic approach, and have even banned the book's sale in some Church stores, it ought to become a best-seller in this country as in Holland, where one copy has been sold for every eight Catholics.

It faces honestly such issues as birth-control, homosexuality, and abortion and rarely asserts the traditional Roman position. Even on subjects such as papal infallibility, Marxism, the Protestant Reformation, or Church-State relations it presents a novel and fresh approach.

Recently, a Dutch theologian, Fr. Schillebeek, on a visit to this country, expressed the opinion that some attitudes expressed in the book are already out of date. We think not. It will take a long time for Catholics [and some Protestants, too!] to catch up with the refreshing spiritual maturity of this book.

J.A.S.

THE CODE-BREAKERS by David Kahn. Macmillan Company. \$14.95.

When we received this prodigious volume from Macmillan, we thought we'd never find time to read it. After all, there's the competition of the "Unk from M.A.N. C.L.E.," the F.B.I., the Invaders, and so forth, all in livid colour. But this is all for real! After David Kahn captures you with the story of Magic and the Purple Machine in the tense days before Pearl Harbor, he takes you back 4,000 years to the beginnings of cryptology. Then, reflecting the precise mind of a devotee of one of the most demanding forms of mental gymnastics, he details, almost minute by minute, the part code-breakers played in critical periods of history.

Not all is history or code mechanics, however. The book enters the areas of philosophy, psychology, and religion as Mr. Kahn analyzes the cryptanalysts. Chapters on "The Pathology of Cryptology," and "Paracryptology," are fascinating in themselves. And for UFO fans he speculates, not unscientifically, on communication with beings from other planets and the possible methods to be employed.

The publisher tells us that David Kahn, a journalist and amateur cryptologist since he was 13, spent two and a half years full time and another two years part-time in writing the book. Frankly, we don't see how he could have done it in less than double that time. In addition to the enormous detail and research involved, the style is polished and flows well. In any case, David Kahn has lost his amateur standing with publication of this work. Despite its high price, we wish it a wide sale. Perhaps it will do as much for him as it did for Hagelin who made millions in developing gadgets like the m-209 encoder-deciphering machine used in the field in WW II and still going strong as a challenge to the code-breakers.

J.A.S.

CONVERSATIONS by Roy Newquist. Rand McNally & Company. \$6.95.

The real authors of this volume are the 43 interesting persons whom Mr. Newquist interviews. They include some of the major and many of the minor names in contemporary literature. Mr. Newquist is a syndicated book reviewer and had access to such diverse writers as Ogden Nash, S. J. Perelman, Helen Gurley Brown, Fr. Robert Capon, Arnold Toynbee, P. G. Wodehouse, and Bucks County's own James Michener. The author apparently carried a tape recorder and let his subjects talk on favorite subjects — frequently themselves. It is therefore an uneven and only occasionally interesting compilation. But, if you have a favorite author, he is probably included, and here he speaks for himself — sometimes less effectively as a soliloquist than in his literary efforts.

J.A.S.

OUT WEST ON THE OVERLAND TRAIN by Richard Reinhardt. The American West Publishing Company. \$10.50.

If anyone has a set of any of Frank Leslie's various publications, he has a gold mine of interesting Americana. Surely it would seem sufficient for a publisher with such a treasure to reprint suitable excerpts and let it go at that. Mr. Reinhardt had a better idea.

Leslie took a junket across the continent in 1877, in the company of some writers for his magazine, as a way of demonstrating the advanced state of luxury train travel. Of course he used a private railroad car and a leisurely personalized itinerary. Reinhardt took more modern pullmans in 1967 and interweaves his story — nostalgic and critical of the decline of the iron horse — with the original Leslie version. Americana buffs, especially the railroad ones, will enjoy the counterpoint.

J.A.S.



Books are a lifelong gift



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There's no other sport to match gliding smoothly over the snow on a Diablo Rouge snowmobile. And no other snow vehicle matches the Bolens Diablo Rouge. Powerful 16 hp engine, wide front-end traction and smooth-gliding ski-rider. Discover a new adventure in our special "Bolens Action Theater". Then you'll see why the swing to safe snowmobiling is DIABLO!

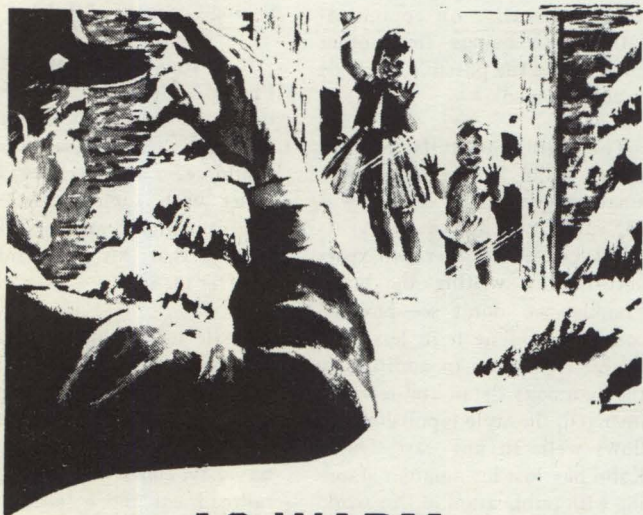
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Montgomeryville Branch
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goes, "Our customers should be kept as warm and comfortable as we keep our own families." And we do this every way we know how. Guarantee your complete heating comfort. Call us today.



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AROUND THE COUNTY

with Dick Alliger

Hey! It's Christmas, and 1967 is almost history. The election is over, and already the politicians are planning on the presidential race for next year. The famous "large crack" in the multi-million dollar Court House retaining wall will only cost about \$1200. to fix rather than the millions talked about last month. Taxes are up and are due to go higher. Much sewer construction in the county. Plans for the 202 and 611 bypass of Doylestown still in the fighting stage. The widening of York Road still in the planning stage, and the new 202 bridge from Pa. to Jersey still at the haggling point. Still no cure for the common cold. Christmas carols playing. Santa Claus selling beer in ads. Actually, I guess it's just about the same as Christmas last year, only 365 moons later. The play never changes, only the cast.

* * *

The Mercer Museum of The Historical Society is presenting a film series of historical films in January and February on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Film subjects such as Williamsburg, Folk Art, Carl Sandburg, and Ben Franklin will be presented. A brochure listing the films, times, dates, etc., is available at the Museum office in Doylestown. It looks like a good series and a must for the student or anyone interested in history.

* * *

Speaking of films, the Washington Crossing Foundation has produced a color film on Washington Crossing the Delaware, "America's Crisis Number 1." The film runs 28 minutes, and features St. John Terrell as George. Sinjin has been crossing the Delaware on Christmas each year for the past 14, enacting the famous event. (Some folks think Washington never did cross the river but hired Sinjin to do it originally, but this is just heresay.) Chet Huntley, the NBC-TV newscaster, who resides on the Jersey side of the river, narrates the film. It is available for group showings at \$10. a day, or a print of the film may be purchased for \$225. (How's that for a gift idea for the man who has everything?) Complete information may be had at no charge by writing the Washington Crossing Foundation in Washington Crossing, Pa. 18977.

* * *

We have had several calls from persons who visited Ringing Rocks County Park this past fall. The County

Park Board recently took over our musical rock pile, and made it accessible to the general public. Prior to this, you had to have a hand drawn map, a good sense of direction and some time in order to find it. Now that everyone and his brother, sister et al are converging on the place, the beauty of this rather awesome spectacle has been marred by beer cans, papers, and trash of every description. One person said he thought the County Commissions were using it as a sanitary landfill. Our Park Board is constantly looking for more tax dollars for new park acquisitions, but we feel they should take care of and clean up what we have, first. Just a thought.

* * *

Movie actor Kier Dullea, now appearing in two upcoming flicks, "The Fox" and "2001 — a Space Odyssey" spent his high school days at George School in Newtown.

* * *

While on the subject of the flickers, actor James MacArthur, son of Helen Hayes and a Solebury School grad, and his wife, TV actress Joyce Buliphant, a Pipersville gal, have filed for divorce.

* * *

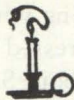
Congratulations to John Brown and Bob Shaddinger on the opening of their new dining room at the Hub Bar and Restaurant on Court House Square in the County Seat. (P.S., the food is good!)

* * *

Bank mergers have been in the news lately. Both Doylestown banks are merging with big Philadelphia banks, and Chalfont Bank is merging with the Bucks County Bank & Trust. Several other large Philadelphia banks are attempting to locate in the Doylestown-Central Bucks area. I guess it's another step toward becoming a Philly Satellite — Heaven forbid!

* * *

Out of words and space except to say, Have a very Happy Holiday Season, and our personal good wishes for a big, bright and Happy 1968.



(continued from page 18)

people, and meetings are free and all interested persons are invited. For further information call 348-4202.

* * *

Did you know that firmness to you may seem an admirable quality, but to another it could mean just plain stubbornness.

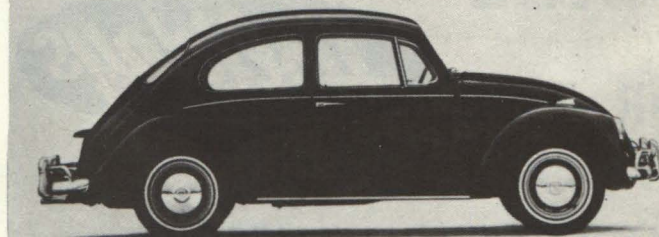
And that the speed and power of the new cars help to bring places closer together, like this world and the next!

* * *

Do you have a cardiac condition? If so, Samuel Bellet, M.D., director of cardiology at the Philadelphia General Hospital is working on a research project. He needs volunteers to have their hearts "monitored" while under the stress of driving cars. If you are willing to help in this worthy study, please call Dr. Bellet's office at BA 2-1355.

* * *

Have a Blessed Christmas, and we'll see you in 1968!



ECONOMY CAR

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(continued from page 9)

In the North Carolina Blue Ridge, an old mountaineer gave his version of the belief that cattle kneel in prayer at midnight of Old Christmas Eve just as they did in the stable over 1,900 years ago. In the South a spirit of reverential awe has distinguished "Old Christmas" from the prancing and pranking of "New," or manmade, Christmas. Because of the difference of twelve days between the Old Style and New Style calendars, what is now January 6 was formerly December 25 and is still regarded by many old folks in the South as the "real Christmas." "Old Christmas" coincides with Twelfth Night, or Epiphany, the Feast of the Three Kings; and some of the poetry and mysticism of the mysterious visit of the wise men to the manger still clings to its observance.

On the eve of "Old Christmas" the spirits that walk abroad during the Twelve Days of Christmas are especially active, and many unnatural phenomena testify to the fact that this is real Christmas.

Holly, mistletoe, Spanish moss, evergreens, wreaths, candlelight — what a galaxy so symbolic of the Christmas season! Do you remember way back when Santa Claus was a bit more thrilling than a mere fellow standing on the street corner with a pleading hand, a beguiling smile, within dangerous proximity of a waiting kettle for restless nickels and dimes? We often wonder if the holiday season fifty years ago was more enchanting, more romantic, more expectant. We do not know. We do remember, however, the weeks just before Christmas when frequent trips to the woods to gather mistletoe, pine branches, bamboo, and holly trees afforded all the fun in the world to many imaginative kids counting the days before the real trip down the chimney for dear old Santa.

Kindergarten experiences today are sure to inform the tiny tots on their first visits that the old man with the long whiskers and blinking eyes is just some fat old man dressed for the occasion. Not so in our day. We learned about Santa about the time we learned about the "busted myth" of cabbage babies and the stork stories. Did you write notes to Santa? Did you burn them in the fireplace and watch them ascend the chimney, believing that they would go directly to the happy, jolly old fellow, who would surely read every line, and that every request would yield success? Did you get up Christmas morning about daylight, rushing half afraid and yet joyfully anticipating the climax of the whole year — Christmas gifts amid stockings hung the night before by the fireplace? We did. They were the days when faith was more than a turn of speech.

Have you forgotten what Santa brought you? We haven't. A tin horn, a gun, toy wheelbarrow, Chinese firecrackers, Roman candles, candy, nuts, raisins, oranges, and apples. What a vastly different story today! The thrill of Santa is short-lived. The commercialization of the season has brought forth a wave of gift-buying far beyond one's

(continued on page 23)

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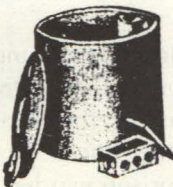
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(continued from page 22)

pocket book and a real tax on nervous energy rushing to get everyone a Christmas present.

However, intrinsically, the proper celebration of Christmas, with people of good will, has undergone no changes. The blessed spiritual significance remains.

The "old-fashioned Christmas" was predicated on visiting and on eating, not on the exchange of gifts. Whole families of aunts and uncles and cousins visited friends and relatives for days at a time. No matter how many beds the host had, there were never enough to accommodate the folks that came. People slept on couches, on pallets, and the children in trundle beds. The "shift" system was employed at the eating tables. The children ate last and were placed at the "second" or "third" table according to age. The penalty imposed upon the younger ones seemed abnormally stringent.

The meals served in the homes of that period truly reminded one of a Roman holiday. Breakfast consisted of country ham, sausage, chicken, bacon, salt herring roes, eggs, fried apples, rolls, biscuits, waffles, buck-wheat cakes, milk, and coffee. Later, in midafternoon there was a combination dinner: turkey, sliced ham, oysters, quail, goose, spareribs, backbone, butter beans, beets, corn, turnip greens, candied yams, Sally Lunn, eggbread, popovers, and cornbread.

Of course there were sweets too — ambrosia, tippy cake, salted nuts, and fruitcake. Let's not forget that good wine served to you before, during, and after your meals.

Between times there were firecrackers, and if the weather permitted, ice-skating, snowballing, and sleigh rides. But mostly the time not spent in eating and sleeping was given over to the fine art of talking, of "visiting," to the exchange of ideas, information, and news. Politics, literature, farming, hunting, cooking, sewing, animal husbandry, funerals, and births were discussed.

I still love Christmas. It means more than just Santa Claus, gifts, food, and entertainment. It's the one time of the year when the whole world is apt to stop for the moment and watch the Star in the East. Christmas, the celebration of the nativity of Jesus, too often in our time is an annual moment of brief glory rather than a part of the way of life for Christians. But in at least one place in the world there is an ever-present reminder of the birth of the Christ child. In a convent adjoining the Basilica of Massenzio, near the Colosseum in Rome, the child rests in the manger at Bethlehem. An ox looks on from his stall, cherubs hover overhead, and the three kings kneel, presenting their gifts to the infant Saviour as Mary and Joseph maintain their loving vigil. The creche, or crib, is the work of an unknown Neopolitan artist three hundred years ago, done as a year-round reminder of the nativity. He transposed the setting of the stable, placing it in surroundings familiar to Italians of his day. Hundreds of carved figures, beautifully exe-

(continued on page 25)

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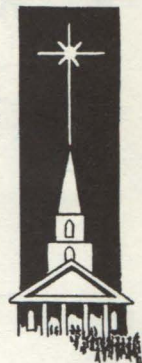
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(continued from page 13)

ing transportation to City Hall for another interview with the District Attorney. Brooks has many charges of arson against him, and some day will be brought back to Bucks County for trial if he ever outlives sentences pending in other jurisdictions.

* * *

GENUINE MOONSHINE: Just about 35 years ago in Bucks County criminal court I sat at the reporter's table and heard one Bill Sherwood plead guilty before Judge Calvin S. Boyer to a charge of manufacturing liquor in Haycock Township between Keller's Church and Pleasant Valley. Sherwood had been a salesman and bookkeeper in Philadelphia. Judge Boyer fined him \$350 and costs and placed him on probation for two years. The interesting thing about the case however, was Sherwood's description to Judge Boyer of how "genuine Haycock Mountain moonshine" is made.

"It must be run through the still twice to be perfect," explained Sherwood to Judge Boyer, a teetotaler. "I just was experimenting with the manufacture of liquor," Sherwood added.

The late Bucks County Detective Anthony Russo of Bristol, informed Judge Boyer that Sherwood had his own idea about the popularity of prohibition laws and traced the result of unpopular laws back to the Revolution. Judge Boyer — once a school teacher himself — looked up from the bench in the old brownstone courthouse and commented, "this court is not conducting a history class."

Sherwood, a rather nervy sort of individual, replied to Judge Boyer, "Well, Your Honor, it was good stuff and everybody liked it. I never sold the stuff, I was just experimenting. The stuff that was seized by the officers was simply the first distillate, and should have been run through the second time to make it real genuine HAYCOCK MOUNTAIN MOONSHINE."

* * *

ODDS AND ENDS: Stormy weather up into New England is predicted for Christmas this year, Monday, 25th . . . The birthstone for this month is turquoise and the flower is Lapis Lazuli Holly . . . The 133rd annual dinner meeting of the Union Horse Company, Inc., will be held at the Doylestown American Legion Home at High Noon, Saturday, February 10, 1968, and the speaker will be the noted, one and only "Dopey" Duncan of Allentown.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to Joseph H. Campbell Jr., Doylestown, who wrote a "Letter to the Editor" published in the Doylestown daily, praising the untiring efforts and efficient management of the Bucks County Prison by Major John D. Case, the prison warden. If ever a nasty

(continued on page 25)

(continued from page 24)

political low-blow from a defeated politician was answered, it was this letter appearing Saturday, November 4. No county prison warden ANYWHERE is doing a better job with what he has to work with than Major Case.

* * *

*Peace, Joy and Happiness for Christmas
and the New Year from Rambling With Russ*



[continued from page 23]

the manger prop. They represent in their many activities the time when the artist lived.

Christmas can be much happier if we think of those poor souls who are far less fortunate than we are. Let's share with them not only the material possessions we own, but our prayers for their comfort and happiness. Our only hope today is "Peace on earth, good will toward all men."

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*



Easy as Pie

Notes by the Publisher

Is there something innate in human nature which makes us like to take chances? Is gambling, for example, simply doing what comes naturally? Our youngest, we discovered, was making book at school on whether he could keep a straight A average. Should we have removed this added motivation to the pursuit of knowledge? Condemn the bookmaking, we reasoned, and spoil the child? — or is it the other way around — better a B than a bounder?

While considering the dilemma, almost without realizing it, our ex teenie-bopper (now a slick chick with a mind set on a fast buck — dollar, not male, we hope!) conned us into a small wager. "Bet you a nickel that tonight the yellow submarine ("Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea") features the mad scientist." Alternately, "Bet you a nickel that tonight the yellow submarine features the sea monster." After this apparently harmless contest was well-established, the girl's best friend (her mother, of course!) was brought into the act to make up a fifteen-cent pool. The whole thing fizzled, not because *Voyage* ever came up with a third plot, but because we discovered our charming gambler was watching the previews and thus gambling with a stacked deck.

The point is not how did our offspring get these ideas, but how did they manage to suck us into their gambling den to be taken?

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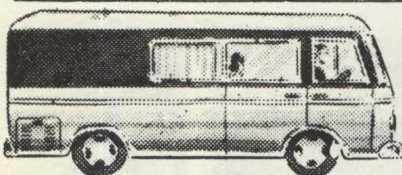
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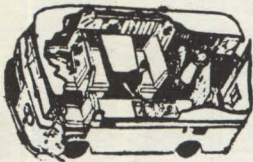
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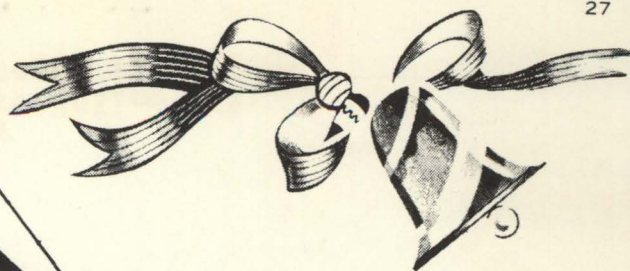
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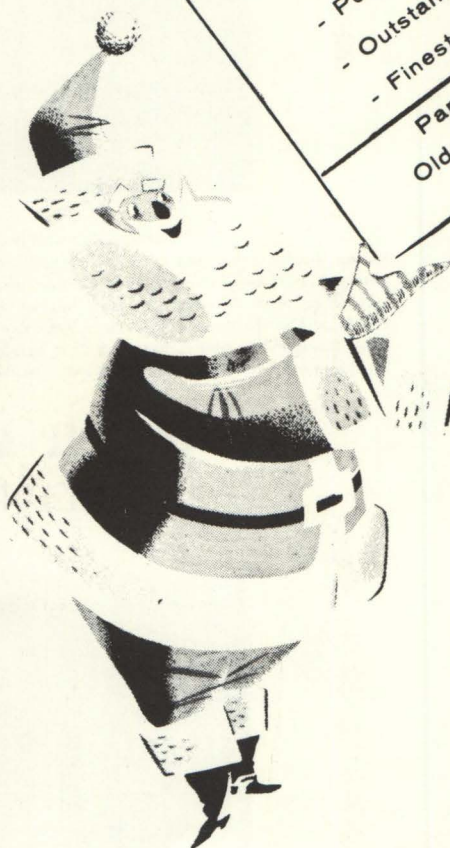
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